

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

3:15 p.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services was called to order by **Representative Stahl**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Representative Sheen moved to adopt the minutes of the **May 31, 2006** meeting. The motion was supported by **Representative Clack**. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Stahl laid **HB 5908** and **HB 5909** before the committee:

HB 5908	Stahl	Children; adoption; objection to placements by child placing agency based on religious or moral convictions; allow.
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HB 5909	Hummel	Children; adoption; licensure of child placing agency that objects to placements on religious or moral grounds; allow.
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Representative Pearce moved to adopt the substitute (**H-1**) to **HB 5909**. The motion was supported by **Representative Sheen**.

The motion did not prevail by a vote of **4-3-1**

UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen and Sheen,

Nays: Representatives Clack, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,

Pass: Representative Spade.

The committee went at ease at 3:30 p.m.

The committee reconvened at 3:46 p.m.

Representative Pearce moved to reconsider the vote by which the substitute (**H-1**) to **HB 5909** was not adopted. The motion was supported by **Representative Sheen**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-4-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk and Sheen,

Nays: Representatives Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Pass: None.

Representative Vander Veen moved to adopt the substitute **(H-1)** to **HB 5909**. The motion was supported by **Representative Hoogendyk**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-3-1**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk and Sheen,
Nays: Representatives Clack, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Pass: Representative Spade.

Vice-Chairman Pearce assumed the chair.

TESTIMONY

Romy Crawford, from Representative Hummel's office, testified in support of HB 5909. Ms. Crawford submitted handouts to the committee.

Representative Stahl, sponsor of HB 5908, explained his bill to the committee.

Erin House, representing the Republican Policy office, gave comments on the bills.

Chairman Stahl resumed the chair.

Chris Root, representing the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, testified in support of the bills and submitted written testimony.

Gordon Weller, Rector of St. Paul Episcopal Church, representing the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and Bishop Wendell Gibbs, testified in opposition to the bills and submitted written testimony.

Ron Hicks, Legislative Liaison, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, testified in opposition to the bills and submitted written testimony.

Christine Timmons, representing the Jewels of Knowledge, testified in support of the bills.

Sean Kosofsky, Director of Policy for the Triangle Foundation, testified in opposition to the bills.

Rachel Loskill, representing Frank Vandervort, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Child Advocacy Law Clinic in Ann Arbor, testified in opposition to the bills and submitted written testimony.

Jay Kaplan, representing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), testified in opposition to the bills and submitted written testimony.

Jane Bassett, representing the Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality, Inc., testified in opposition to the bills.

Paul Long, representing the Michigan Catholic Conference, testified in support of the bills and submitted written testimony.

Bill Kandler, representing the Family Law Section, Michigan State Bar, submitted a card and written testimony in opposition to the HB 5908.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Representative John Stahl, Chair
House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services
Malika Abdur-Rashid
Committee Clerk
517/373-7256
2 Hours 40 Minutes